

Message Text

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47

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-02 AF-04 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-06

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R 190100Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5288

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WTO, PORG, MX

SUBJECT: WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION: SITE OF FIRST
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. IN UNUSUAL DEPARTURE FROM PROTOCOL, AMB. FERNANDO CASTRO Y CASTRO (DIRECTOR IN CHIEF, SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS) CALLED ON AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 18 TO ASK THAT USG STOP "LOBBYING" AGAINST MEXICO AS CHOICE FOR SITE OF FIRST WTO ASSEMBLY.

2. CASTRO Y CASTRO REVIEWED FOR AMBASSADOR BACKGROUND OF MATTER INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE SEPT. 11 IN MEXICO BETWEEN MEXICAN OFFICIALS, MR. DAVID PARKER (DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR TOURISM) AND MR. CARL GRIP (IO STATE). CASTRO Y CASTRO SAID THERE WAS "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" BETWEEN U.S. AND MEXICO ON SUBJECT OF SITE OF FIRST ASSEMBLY: THE U.S. WAS TO HOLD TO ITS POSITION THAT STRICT INTERPRETATION OF THE STATUTES CALLED FOR GENEVA BUT U.S. WOULD NOT ACTIVELY OPPOSE MEXICAN EFFORTS.

3. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTIONS, CASTRO Y CASTRO
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SAID GOM HELD TO DIFFERENT JURIDICAL POSITION; NAMELY,

THAT GENEVA WAS NAMED MERELY A "CONVENIENCE" NOT A REQUIREMENT, AND THAT EVEN GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND A SHARED GOM VIEW.

4. ADMITTING THAT WHILE PRESENT DISCUSSION CONCERNED ONLY CHOICE OF SITE FOR FIRST ASSEMBLY, CASTRO Y CASTRO MADE LITTLE DISTINCTION BETWEEN SITE OF FIRST ASSEMBLY AND CHOICE OF PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS FOR WTO. WITH HIS USUAL ELOQUENCE, CASTRO Y CASTRO SET FORTH ALL THE REASONS U.S. AND CANADA SHOULD SUPPORT MEXICO AS HEADQUARTERS SITE.

5. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WE DID NOT HAVE FULL OR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC WHICH WAS BEING HANDLED IN WASHINGTON. WE DID NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE INFORMATION ON RECENT PANAMA MEETING WHICH HAD BEEN ATTENDED BY BOTH AMBASSADOR CASTRO Y CASTRO AND MR. GRIP. WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS REPORT HIS COMMENTS PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON.

6. AMBASSADOR THEN NOTED THAT WHILE TIMING AND BACKGROUND OF WTO ISSUE MADE IT OBVIOUS WTO MATTER NOT RELATED TO POINT HE WAS ABOUT TO RAISE, NEVERTHELESS THERE COULD BE SOME FUTURE INTER-RELATIONSHIP. LATER POINT CONCERNED SOMEWHAT EXCESSIVE POLITICIZING AND OBVIOUS PARTISANSHIP OF MEXICAN CHAIRMAN AT RECENT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN MEXICO CITY, SUCH AS TOOK PLACE DURING ILO, ECLA/UNIDO AND ECLA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEETINGS (SEE MEXICO 10523). CASTRO Y CASTRO AT FIRST DEMURRED, SAYING THAT CHOICE OF SITE DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN HOST GOVERNMENT CHAIRED CONFERENCE, BUT THEN AGREED IT WAS USUALLY SO. HE THEN SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD TO FOLLOW HIS GOVERNMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR JOVA'S OBSERVATIONS.

7. COMMENT: GOM, AND CASTRO Y CASTRO IN PARTICULAR, APPEARS TO FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT CHOICE OF MEXICO AS SITE FOR WTO HEADQUARTERS. CASTRO Y CASTRO MADE SIMILAR BUT LOWER KEY APPROACH ON TELEPHONE TO CHARGE LAST MONTH. EMBASSY ASKS THAT, IN VIEW OF GOM'S SENSITIVITY FOLLOWING USG'S NEGATIVE VOTE IN UNGA ON CERDS, CARE BE TAKEN NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO APPEAR TO BE WORKING AGAINST MEXICO ON WTO ISSUE. IN VIEW GOM INTENSE INTEREST, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ON REGULAR BASIS CABLE TRAFFIC PERTAINING TO WTO ISSUES AND DEPARTMENT'S ESTIMATE OF HOW MUCH WE MIGHT DO TO PLEASE MEXICO AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE.
JOVA

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